

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested. Claims 3 and 4 are pending in the present application. Claims 3 and 4 are rejected. For the reasons set forth in detail below, the rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over **Mizoguchi** (USP 5,841,466, previously cited) in view of **Iwasa** (WO 02/42890, previously cited) and **Okamoto** (USP 5,465,083, newly cited). For the reasons set forth in detail below, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

In the current rejection, the Examiner applies the **Mizoguchi** and **Iwasa** references in basically the same manner as applied in the previous Office Action. Therefore, a detailed discussion of these references will not be repeated here. See, e.g., Request for Reconsideration under 37 C.F.R. §1.111 filed on June 16, 2008 for a detailed discussion of these references.

In summary, the current rejection apparently recognizes that the combination of **Mizoguchi** and **Iwasa** does not disclose or suggest the claimed “means for [a circuit for] comparing, in response to receiving the password from the external computer, the received password with the registered password and for allowing operation of the liquid crystal projector by the external computer and nullifying operation of keys of the operation means in response to the means for [circuit for] comparing indicating that both the registered password and the password received from the external computer coincide with each other.” See, e.g., page 4, lines

10-11 of the current Office Action. The Examiner relies on the **Okamoto** reference to teach “nullifying operation of keys of the operation means when the passwords coincide with each other in order to establish a key lock mode” (see Office Action, page 4, lines 12-14).

In accordance with aspects of the present invention, in the case where a password sent from an external computer to a liquid crystal projector coincides with a password registered in the liquid crystal projector, operation of the liquid crystal projector by the external computer is allowed, and key entry by the operation means of the liquid crystal projector is nullified.

More particularly, the following two controls ((a) and (b)) characterize aspects of the present invention “in a case where the password sent from the ‘external computer’ to the ‘liquid crystal projector’ coincides with the password registered in the liquid crystal protector”:

- (a) allowing operation of the “liquid crystal projector” by the “external computer”; and
- (b) nullifying key entry by the operation means of the “liquid crystal projector”.

It is respectfully submitted that none of **Mizoguchi**, **Iwasa** and **Okamoto**, whether taken alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the above-noted features of the presently claimed invention.

Moreover, simply combining the invention of **Okamoto** with that of **Mizoguchi** would not result in the aforementioned features of the presently claimed invention.

Okamoto relates to an invention, wherein even if other people operate the keyboard or the mouse of the data input device during the operator of the data input device being away from his/her seat, the operation by the other people will be nullified, by implementing a predetermined operation on the keyboard of the data input device before the operator leaves his/her seat. That

is, **Okamoto's** invention is designed to nullify inputs from the operation means (the keyboard 13, the mouse 14) of the data input device based on a password entered by the keyboard 13 (the operation means) of the data input device.

Combining the invention of **Okamoto** with that of **Mizoguchi** would simply result in the addition of the "means for nullifying an input from the operation means (the remote controller 3, 5) of the optical visualizing apparatus based on a password entered by the operation means (the remote controller 3, 5) of the optical visualizing apparatus", and would not result in the features of the present invention.

Moreover, the **Okamoto** reference discloses a data input controller that can disable data input through a keyboard 13 or a mouse to an information processing apparatus, such as a personal computer. More specifically, in operation of the **Okamoto** system, first, a determination is made regarding whether or not a combination of pressed keys on a keyboard 13 is a combination for setting a *key lock mode* (see col. 5, lines 41-46). That is, when the system is in a normal mode and a predetermined combination of keys (e.g., a function key and another predetermined key) is pressed, *data input through the keyboard 13 is disabled by inhibiting sending of a key code from a keyboard encoder 17 to a keyboard controller 16* (see col. 5, lines 56-61).

After pressing the appropriate combination of keys has set the *key lock mode*, the **Okamoto** system enters a *password setting mode* wherein the operator sets a password (see col. 5, lines 51-56 and Fig. 2, steps S106 and S108). At this point, the operator enters a password having a desired number of characters, and the system monitors and stores in RAM 24

succeeding key inputs until a character (e.g., a RETURN or ENTER) indicating the last character of the password is detected (see col. 6, lines 22-37). When the last character (e.g., ENTER) of the password is detected, the system is changed over to a **password check mode** (see col. 6, lines 33-35). In the password check mode, the operator enters the same password already stored in the RAM 24 (see col. 6, lines 42-43). If the password entered at this time does **not** match the previously registered password, the keyboard encoder 17 is set to a normal mode wherein key input is **not** inhibited (see col. 6, line 67–col. 7, line 2 and Fig. 4, steps S302 and S308).

However, if the password entered at this time matches the previously registered password, the system maintains the key lock state (see col. 10, lines 58-65, which corresponds to claim 7 cited by the Examiner in the rejection). The system now enters a mode wherein key lock release is achieved by entering the password registered in the RAM 24.

In the **key lock release mode**, the entered password is compared with the password stored in the RAM 24. If there is a match, the system returns to the normal mode wherein the keyboard encoder 17 does not inhibit key input. If there is not a match, the key lock state is maintained. See Fig. 5.

However, as will be discussed below, it is respectfully submitted that none of the references, whether taken alone or in combination disclose or suggest the claimed “*a circuit for comparing, in response to receiving the password from the external computer, the received password with the registered password and for allowing operation of the liquid crystal projector by the external computer and nullifying operation of keys of the operation unit in response to the circuit for comparing indicating that the registered password and the password received from*

the external computer coincide with each other” as recited in claim 4 (and similarly recited in claim 3).

Initially, it is noted that the Examiner relies on **Mizoguchi** to teach part of the claimed element “a circuit for comparing...” and relies on **Okamoto** to teach another part of this same element. More specifically, the Examiner relies on **Mizoguchi** to teach the following features of the claim

a circuit for comparing, in response to receiving the password from the external computer, the received password with the registered password and for allowing operation of the liquid crystal projector by the external computer...in response to the circuit for comparing indicating that the registered password and the password received from the external computer coincide with each other,

and relies on **Okamoto** to teach the following features

a circuit for comparing, in response to receiving the password from the external computer, the received password with the registered password and for...nullifying operation of keys of the operation unit in response to the circuit for comparing indicating that the registered password and the password received from the external computer coincide with each other

However, first, it is submitted that **Okamoto** does not disclose or suggest “a circuit [means] for comparing, in response to receiving the password from the external computer, the received password with the registered password and for...nullifying operation of keys of the operation unit in response to the circuit [means] for comparing indicating that the registered password and the password received from the external computer coincide with each other.”

More specifically, using claim 4 for discussion purposes, the claim calls for the following:

“a liquid crystal projector comprising...an operation unit for operating the liquid crystal projector...a circuit for comparing, in response to receiving the password from the external computer, the received password with the registered password and for...nullifying operation of keys of the operation unit [of the liquid crystal projector] in response to the circuit for comparing indicating that the registered password and the password received from the external computer coincide with each other.”

The **Okamoto** reference is completely unrelated to, and does not disclose or suggest, a system that nullifies operation of keys of an operation unit of a liquid crystal projector in response to circuit for comparing indicating that a registered password and the password received from an external computer coincide with each other. **Okamoto** does not even disclose or suggest a liquid crystal projector having an operation unit.

Moreover, it is noted that neither **Mizoguchi** nor **Isawa** disclose or suggest devices that nullify operation of keys of an operation unit of a liquid crystal projector in response to a registered password and a password received from an external computer coinciding. Each of **Mizoguchi** and **Iwasa** relate to allowing certain operations when passwords coincide. See, e.g., the arguments presented in the Request for Reconsideration filed on June 16, 2008.

Furthermore, it is submitted that **Okamoto** does not disclose or suggest “a circuit...for nullifying operation of keys of the operation unit [of the liquid crystal projector] *in response to the circuit for comparing indicating that the registered password and the password received from the external computer coincide with each other.*”

As discussed above, the **Okamoto** reference nullifies operation of keys on a keyboard of a computer *in response to* determining that a certain combination of pressed keys on a keyboard 13 is a combination for setting a *key lock mode* (see col. 5, lines 41-46 and col. 5, lines 56-61). However, this nullification is not *in response to* determining that a registered password and an input password coincide.

Moreover, **Okamoto** teaches *releasing* the key lock state *in response to* an entered password matching the password stored in the RAM 24. If there is a match, the system returns to the normal mode wherein the keyboard encoder 17 does *not inhibit* key input. If there is not a match, the key lock state is maintained. See Fig. 5. This is quite different from *nullifying* the operation of keys *in response to detecting that passwords coincide*, as claimed.

A rejection under §103 requires that the combination of references must disclose, suggest or render obvious all elements recited in the claims. As discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of **Mizoguchi, Iwasa** and **Okamoto** does not disclose, suggest or render obvious all elements recited in independent claims 3 and 4. Accordingly, it is submitted that each of claims 3 and 4 patentably distinguish over the cited combination of references. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under §103 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection and an indication of allowability of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Application No.: 10/644,068
Art Unit: 2629

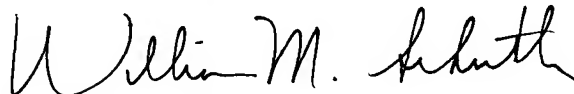
Request for Reconsideration under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Attorney Docket No.: 031016

If the Examiner believes that there are issues remaining to be resolved in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite and complete prosecution of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William M. Schertler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "William" and middle initial "M." being more legible than the last name "Schertler".

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